

here, Prince Lech established this as the capital and further, the white eagle became the national coat-of-arms.

Additionally, Poles migrated to America at the beginning of the 20th Century through the First World War. They arrived from the Austrian-held southern Poland, Zakopane with Gorale culture, Rzeszów, Lwow, Russian territories of Kujawy, and Wilno, the modern capital of Lithuania.

Regardless of their ancestral region, Polish immigrants contributed greatly to Toledo's growing labor forces. By 1920, people of Polish origin constituted the largest foreign-born group in Toledo and Lucas County. These settlers accounted for at least one quarter of the population of northwest Ohio, eventually spilling over into southeastern Michigan. Toledo was the largest city in northwest Ohio with a population of over 300,000 people. Residents of Polish ancestry now number over 60,000.

Given Poland's special relationship with the Catholic Church, when Poles came to inhabit Toledo, naturally, the Catholic Church became the bastion of their communities. Indeed its establishment predated the formation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo itself. By 1879, the Lagrange street district (known as "Lagrinka" by Poles) hosted the first Polish parish under the patronage of Saint Hedwig, Queen of Poland. The Polish Lagrinka district rapidly expanded into the beginning of the 20th century. By 1907, Bishop Ignatius Horstmann of Cleveland established a second Polish parish in the Lagrange Street district as a division of St. Hedwig Parish. The bishop assigned Fr. Jozef Wachowski, a young priest who worked in Cleveland, to begin the new parish by October 18, 1907 with Park Street as the boundary line. The old church building of St. Hedwig housed the first parish meeting on February 23, 1908.

By March 4, 1908, Bishop Horstmann approved the choice of St. Adalbert as the namesake and patron of the new parish. The official announcement of the parish patron saint was made on March 15, 1908. A nine-room cottage on the property was used as the pastor's house. By November of 1908, Fr. Wachowski signed a contract for a combination church/school building, and a pastoral residence. The first spade of ground for the new church was turned on December 1, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Kudelka laid the cornerstone on May 2, 1909. Representatives of all the Polish parishes in the Toledo and Rossford areas, and parishes from Ironville in east Toledo attended this ceremony. The church school was finished in October 1909. Work started on the rectory in February of 1909. A demonstration of Catholic Polish people which has never been equaled in Toledo took place Sunday, September 18, 1910 when the Right Reverend Bishop from Chicago dedicated St. Adalbert Church and School on Lagrange and Oakland Streets. The parade to follow showcased all societies, military and religious, of all the Polish churches. Bishop Paul P. Rhode was the first and only Polish bishop in the United States, leading nearly 3,000,000 Catholic Poles and more than 800 churches. By October 1909, Fr. Wachowski moved into the new rectory, followed by a sister's convent in 1915.

St. Adalbert Parish eventually became the largest parish in the diocese; thus, it was necessary to build a new, separate church to sus-

tain the parish members. On April 19, 1927, parish supporters laid the cornerstone to the present magnificent church. This church, built between the church-school and the parish house in the Spanish Mission style, was 145 feet long and 75 feet wide with a 100-foot tower at one side. September 18, 1927 celebrated the first Mass of the new church. The new St. Adalbert Church was dedicated by Bishop Samuel A. Stritch on April 22, 1928, which also marked the 25th anniversary of Fr. Wachowski's ordination to the priesthood.

After the new church was built, the Great Depression came. Father Czarnecki inherited the debt of the church building. However, Fr. Czarnecki introduced and distributed financial booklets to list all the contributions of each member during the year. Due to the priest's business acumen, the building debt was paid.

Parishioners of Saint Adalbert have been involved in numerous organizations. These members of the parish organized a number of societies: St. Adalbert Society, St. Casimir's and St. Joseph's Societies, St. Michael Society (men), Altar-Rosary Society (women), and Young Ladies Society (girls), St. Theresa and Holy Rosary Sodality, the Ladies' Guild, the Young People's Friendly Circle, the Catholic Order of Foresters, Court No. 1865, LCBA Branch No. 1434 and the Altar Boys' League. From these organizations and tight-knit community, Saint Adalbert was an anchor for the neighborhood.

The church buttressed a parish school that became a site of advancement for young people for generations. The selfless contributions of the teachers, more notably, the Felician Sisters ensured the students received a top-notch education, but nurtured students who were dedicated and devoted to serve their fellow man, community and country. Rev. J.P. Wachowski requested the services of the Felician Sisters. The future welfare of the Polish pioneers lay in their education and training by a religious community of their own nationality. Retaining some ethnic identity was essential for those separated from their mother country by a force of circumstances. The Felician Sisters have taught in Toledo since 1883, nine years after five Sisters arrived in Polonia, Wisconsin from Poland to establish the first U.S. Foundation. The religious community was founded in Warsaw, Poland in 1855 by Mother M. Angela, eventually being housed in Livonia, Michigan in 1936. The sisters became an integral part of the community, the elementary schools, high schools, religious education centers, parish religious programs, a college hospital, home for dependent children and a home for the aged. The Congregation of Sisters of Saint Felix has been teaching at the St. Adalbert Parish for 98 years.

The original St. Adalbert Parish attracted about 150 families. Upon completion of the new parish, more than 1,000 families claimed Saint Adalbert as their parish. Presently, approximately 550 household families are registered at St. Adalbert Parish.

In lieu of current trends of former vibrant Polish communities, two parishes were superfluous to meet the needs of the community. Thus, to keep alive the Polish churches of North Toledo, in July of 2005, St. Adalbert Parish and St. Hedwig Parish were twinned, staying separate parishes but one community. What once partitioned the north Toledo Polish neighborhood has now become united. In fact, the parish schools of Saint Hedwig and Saint

Adalbert joined, creating Pope John Paul II School, tangibly representing this union.

Indeed the story of 100 years of activity can never be told in its entirety; but the contributions of the Felicians, priests and laity, who served as lecturers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members, musicians, youth athletic coaches, and skit, dance and musical choreographers nurtured the joy of community commemorated during its 100th anniversary.

October 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of St. Adalbert Parish. A year-long celebration begins with the blessing of the statue of our late Pope John Paul II. May God bless St. Adalbert Parish—all its founders and inheritors—and our beloved community, and city.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FLYNT, A MEMBER OF THE SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize an outstanding individual in my district. Recently, Mike Flynt, at age 59, became the second oldest athlete to participate in NCAA collegiate football. Mr. Flynt is a linebacker for the Sul Ross State University Lobos and has exemplified himself as a team leader and an inspiration to the younger players on the team. This weekend marks the final game of the season for the Sul Ross Lobos and I would like to congratulate the team on a great season and to Mike for providing leadership and inspiration that certainly contributed to the team's success.

Mike Flynt is not only an inspiration on the football field; he is also an expert in physical fitness. He is a certified Master of Fitness Sciences and a youth fitness trainer. He has worked as a fitness and conditioning specialist at the Universities of Nebraska, Oregon and Texas A&M. Mr. Flynt is also the inventor of a portable gym system that received a government patent and also a founding member of the international Strength and Conditioning Association.

Across the Nation, people have heard the story of Mike Flynt. He has received countless e-mails and letters congratulating him on his accomplishments. His popularity has also drawn donations to the University in order to fund scholarships and to purchase needed athletic equipment.

Because of this impact, I have asked President Bush to appoint Mr. Flynt to the Council of Physical Fitness and Sports. He would be a perfect candidate to serve on the council due to his lifelong commitment to health and fitness. He would serve as an inspiration to people of all ages and would be a wonderful addition to the Council.

I would like to reiterate my amazement at the accomplishments of Mike Flynt. I recognize him today for being an inspiration to his community and to the Nation. We should keep the story of Mike Flynt in mind and remember that age should not be a barrier to our dreams.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOST RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced legislation that will help people who worked long hours, went to work everyday to support their families, and thought they were earning a retirement package that would be there at the end of their careers. Unfortunately, many in this body know the crisis some workers have endured regarding their defined benefit pension plans. Many people have felt the sting of lost jobs, reduced benefits, and bankrupt employers. Their retirement savings were lost.

The Lost Retirement Savings Act will allow airline workers to recover some of their benefits that were erased when their employers went bankrupt. By creating a retirement savings option for airline workers whose defined benefit plans were terminated or frozen in bankruptcy proceedings we can offer help to workers. This legislation creates an opportunity for airline workers to rollover specified bankruptcy payments into a traditional or Roth individual retirement account.

Airline workers have lost more than \$5 billion in wages alone. They have lost an additional \$5 billion in defined benefit pension benefits. Some have lost more than their paycheck. Too many people lost their jobs. In my district, which covers metro Atlanta, Delta Air Lines has been particularly hard hit over the past few years. On September 11, there were 10,500 active Delta pilots. Today, there are 6,700.

We need to keep our pension system strong in America. We need to keep it strong for American workers and their families. If the system breaks, we need to stand up for all workers and find a solution. This legislation will restore some lost earnings and some lost opportunities. I look forward to seeing this passed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TELEWORK IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, telework continues to be under utilized by Federal agencies. Improvements are needed to allow more Federal employees to participate in telework programs. Today, Representative SARBANES will join me in introducing legislation that will ensure that agencies make those much needed improvements. Telework provides numerous benefits including increased flexibilities for both employers and employees, continuity of operations during emergency events, and decreased energy use and air pollution.

The Office of Personnel Management, OPM, defines telework as "work arrangements in which an employee regularly performs officially assigned duties at home or other worksites geographically convenient to the residence of

the employee." Many of the current Federal programs were developed in response to a provision included in an appropriations bill enacted in October 2000. This law requires each executive branch agency to establish a telework policy under which eligible employees "may participate in telecommuting to the maximum extent possible without diminishing employee performance." Under the current legislative framework, the General Services Administration, GSA, and OPM have leading roles in implementing government-wide telework initiatives.

Unfortunately, telework is not being used to the extent it should be. According to OPM's most recent report, only about 119,000 of the approximately 1.8 million Federal employees participated in telework in 2005. That figure represents only 6.6 percent of Federal agency employees. Some of the barriers to telework include office coverage, organizational culture, management resistance, and technology security and funding. Today we want to examine ways to address these barriers and encourage teleworking.

On May 7, 2007, I, along with my colleagues, Representative KENNY MARCHANT, full committee Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS sent a letter to 25 Federal departments and agencies requesting information on the telework programs of those agencies. The letter was intended to help us better understand how well agency telework programs are working. What we found is that not only is telework inconsistently defined across agencies, many agencies, do not effectively measure and track teleworkers. Some agencies do not even know how many of their employees actually telework.

In recent years, telework has increasingly been viewed as an important tool for ensuring continuity of essential government services in a time of crisis, such as in the event of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. To help improve the preparedness of the Federal Government's operation in emergency situations, last session, I introduced H.R. 5366, the "Continuity of Operations Demonstration Project Act." This legislation provided for a demonstration project under which at least two Federal agencies would perform services and operations under a simulated emergency in which Federal employees would have to work at locations away from their usual workplace, including home, for at least 10 consecutive days. A number of agencies have taken the initiative to perform demonstration exercises in the last several years but there are still many agencies that have not done so. I would like to see more agencies test their ability to continue operations in an emergency and incorporate telework into their continuity of operations plans.

Representative JOHN SARBANES, House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, and Representative FRANK WOLF have joined me in introducing the "Telework Improvement Act of 2007." This legislation breaks new ground by ensuring that eligible Federal employees have the opportunity to telework and that agencies are incorporating telework into their continuity of operations planning. The Act spurs Federal agencies to improve their telework policies by requiring every Federal agency to develop a telework program that allows employees to telework at least 20 percent of every 2-week work period, designate a senior level em-

ployee as a telework managing officer, and incorporate telework into their continuity of operations planning.

Our expectation is that this legislation will increase the number of Federal employees that are allowed to telework and thereby better prepare the Government for emergency events, reduce congestion and pollution, and create a more family-friendly workplace.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET DREWNIAK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mrs. Margaret (Marge) Drewniak. I can truly say that Marge is one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. She is one of the most involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the people of Whiting, Indiana. For the past 37 years, Marge has been a constant fixture in Whiting, fully committed in her various capacities as a public servant. Most notably, Marge has served as the Clerk-Treasurer for the City of Whiting for the past 26 years. Though Marge has decided not to run for reelection, her efforts over the course of her tenure, and the impact she has had on the city and the people of Whiting will forever be remembered. To honor Marge, a reception will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Whiting, Indiana, on Saturday, November 10, 2007.

One of 3 children, Margaret Kotyuk was born to Frank and Emma (Mitro) Kotyuk in Whiting, Indiana. A lifelong resident of Whiting, Marge attended the Whiting public schools. Upon her graduation, prior to beginning her career as a public servant, Marge was employed as a bookkeeper. Undoubtedly, it was during that time that Marge developed the skills that would be critical in her role as clerk-treasurer.

Marge began her career in the public sector in Whiting in 1970, where she served in various capacities within several departments under former Mayor Frank Harangody. In 1974, she was named deputy clerk-treasurer, a position she held until 1981, when she was appointed to complete the term of the late clerk-treasurer, Mary Jancek. This began Marge's 26-year tenure as Whiting's clerk-treasurer. During that time, she worked with four mayors: Frank Harangody, Joseph Grenchik, Robert Bercik, and current Mayor Joseph Stahura. Marge also served as a precinct vice-committeeperson and volunteered countless hours for the Whiting Democratic Precinct Organization during her tenure.

In her capacity as clerk-treasurer, Marge has been a member of many organizations throughout the years, including: the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers, the Municipal Treasurers' Association of the United States and Canada, the Government Finance Officers Association, and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. Outside her elected position, Marge is